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ABSTRACT

This report provides information on a range of key child care issues, including basic facts about child care and its importance to children, families, and communities; and information on key legislative issues and proposals affecting child care. Fact sheets, with supporting references and tabular data, comprise about one-half of the document. Topics for these fact sheets include: (1) the extent to which child care is an integral part of American families' experiences as children increasingly have parents in the work force; (2) the impact of the lack of available child care on children, families, and communities; (3) the role of child care in helping children enter school ready to succeed; (4) the importance of nutritional assistance to children's health; and (5) the current supply of child care. The remainder of the document is comprised of information related to the current child care policy debate, including: (1) the roles of federal, state, and local governments and private and public sectors; (2) quotations from parents regarding their need for child care and nutrition assistance; (3) frequently asked questions about child care policies; (4) key components of an effective federal child care policy; (5) a state-by-state listing of waiting lists, closed intake, and reallocation of funds in 1994; (6) comparisons of the child care and child nutrition provisions under current law, the House Child Care Block Grant Proposals (H.R. 4), and the Senate Work Opportunity Act of 1995 (S. 1120); and (7) a summary of main child care provisions in the Welfare Conference Agreement. (KDFB)

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